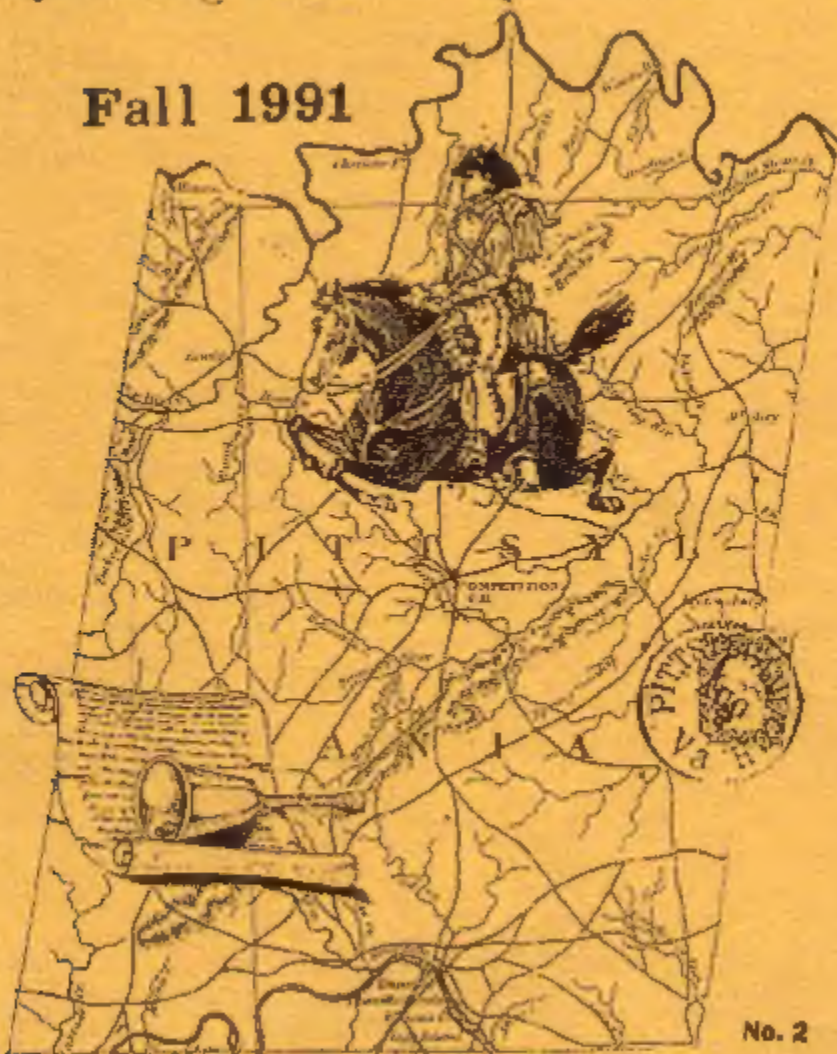


# The Pittsylvania Packet

Fall 1991



No. 2

Pittsylvania Historical Society

## REPORT TO P.H.S. MEMBERS

Preston B. Moses, former editor of the Pittsylvania Star-Tribune, was elected as the new president of the Pittsylvania Historical Society for the ensuing year. Moses succeeds Henry Mitchell who gave freely of his time and energy to the leadership of the PHS for the past two years.

Frances Hallam Hurt, author, civic leader, was re-elected vice-president.

Ivelle Saunders, retired Clerk of the Pittsylvania Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, was elected treasurer to replace Catherine Overbey who had been dedicated to the service of the society for the past 18 years.

Jeanette Brown was elected to fill the new office of membership secretary.

Jeanette, a former teacher, has returned to Chatham from Fork Union with her husband Frank "Pete" Brown who retired as football coach at Fork Union Military Academy.

Katherine Buck was re-elected as recording secretary for the tenth consecutive year. She has been a super active member of the Chatham Rescue Squad for the past 20 years. Katherine handles all orders and sales of the PHS publications.

Members of the Board of Directors are Norman Amos, James "Mack" Doss, Perry Mitchell, Alice Overbey and Catherine Overbey.

The PHS has four stated meetings a year on the third Monday night of May, August, November and February.

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## TENTH ANNUAL CALLANDS FESTIVAL SUCCESSFUL

The PHS Tenth Annual Callands Festival Oct. 5 was another huge success with an estimated attendance of 10,000 -- thanks to James "Mack" Doss, PHS Committee Chairman and assisted by members of the Callands VFD and loyal PHS members.

Adrian O'Conner, Danville Register feature writer, wrote: "I've learned that every festival is pretty much the same, save for the Autumn Potpourri at Callands which calls to mind Pittsylvania County's frontier heritage."

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## FINANCES IN GOOD SHAPE

It is good to know that the society is in very good financial condition at this time, although there are some expenditures coming up for repairs and improvements to the 1813 Clerk's Office.

### DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER FOR NOV. 18 MEETING

The PHS regular meeting set for the third Monday night, November 18 will feature Claude B. Owen Jr., Chief Executive Officer of Dibrell Brothers, Inc., a billion dollar corporation and one of America's successful enterprises.

The Dibrell President, "a good old country boy," will let us in on Dibrell's beginning and interesting background and will tell of the corporation's connection with the county and city. The meeting will be at the 1813 Clerk's office in Chatham beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 18.

THE PACKET - Published by the

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 1206 - Chatham, Virginia 24531 - Phone (804)-432-5031

## 1775 Tory Story Told Committee of Safety Elected at Callands

BY FRANCES HURT

Although it is not widely known, Pittsylvania County has its own cradle of the American Revolution -- the old courthouse at Callands where on January 26, 1775 numerous inhabitants voted to elect a Committee of Safety to "defend their liberties and their properties at the risk of their lives." In short, they took the bit in their teeth to defy the King.



Callands Courthouse & Gaol - 1775

But for every bold patriot there was apt to be a Tory holding fast to his allegiance to England and the King. Historians such as H.J. Eckenrode, Revolutionary historian of record, believe that there were as many of one as of the other, but after the victory of the Patriots a Tory was hard to find.

Pittsylvania records do not list the name of a single Tory, nor is there any record of Pittsylvania Tories in the State Archives although other counties do list Tory names. Somebody somewhere in Pittsylvania County wiped the slate clean.

Pittsylvania, in fact, must have harbored Tories in considerable number for, according to Governor Thomas Jefferson, they planned an uprising in 1780, by which time people were worn out with the war. In this county citizens were bled white to provision the Continental Army and state militia.

In 1781 Peytonshurg, first county seat of Pittsylvania before it was cut down in size with Callands as its seat, was made one of the nine Revolutionary supply depots for the entire Continental Army. One William McCraw was named quartermaster for the District, and he knew how to crack the whip. In the Calendar of Virginia State Papers he emerges as shrew, powerful and acerbic. Pittsylvania records show that he impressed horses, wagons, cows, sheep, guns, wheat, corn, flour, meat and whiskey. If it could be used, eaten or drunk, it was in peril from McCraw.

In short order, McCraw was operating a wooden canteen factory supplying canteens for the entire Continental Army. Replicas of those canteens were handmade by Dewey Saunders for the 1976 bicentennial celebration in Pittsylvania. McCraw also set up a foundry to turn out hundreds of horseshoes a day, likewise establishing an armory for weapons repair. McCraw made no friends, but he did the job.

It is interesting to contrast the ardor of those first brave souls in the Callands courthouse in 1775 with the "dangerous insurrection" which was aborted in 1780. Pittsylvania is incredibly fortunate to have an official record of that first meeting, treason in the eyes of the King.

The clerk of the meeting, William Peters Martin, sent a dispatch to the Virginia Gazette which was published February 11, 1775. It reads, "During the time of choosing the said committee, the utmost good order and harmony was observed, and all of the inhabitants of the county then present (which was very numerous) seemed determined and resolute in defending their liberties and properties, at the risk of their lives, and if required, to die by their fellow sufferers (the



Bostonians) whose cause they consider their own, and it being mentioned in committee that this county had never contributed their proportionable part towards defraying the expenses of the Delegates who attended on our behalf at the Gen'l Congress, that sum was cheerfully raised and deposited in the hands of Peter Perkins and Benjamin Lankford, Esquire, the Representatives for the said county, to be transmitted to them to whom it ought to have been paid; after which the committee rose, and several loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk, the company dispersed, well pleased with the behavior of the people they had put their confidence in."

As for the "dangerous insurrection," it is noted in a letter sent by Governor Jefferson to Virginia's delegates in the Continental Congress. His letter reads, "A very dangerous insurrection in Pittsylvania was prevented a few days ago by being discovered three days before it was to take place. The Ringleaders were seized in their beds."

Who were those Ringleaders?

Time has closed down on those tumultuous days including the names of those loyal to the King.

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#### NEW EDITOR OF PACKET

I, as President of the Pittsylvania Historical Society, have taken on the task of editing and publishing "The Pittsylvania Packet" - the Society's quarterly publication.

I am fortunate to have the support of Mrs. Lucille Payne, past PHS President, and who with her husband Neil Payne, co-edited "The Quill Pen;" Henry Mitchell, immediate past PHS President; Herman Melton, author, who was the interim editor of the first issue of "The Packet;" Frances Hurl, PHS vice-president and distinguished writer.

All of these society members have pledged to be regular contributors to keep "The Packet" going which is important in serving as the connecting link for the PHS membership.

To you PHS members and readers, I really want your suggestions. If you have a short item, article, clipping (etc.) that you think would fit in a historical publication of this sort, please send it to me. My address is Pittsylvania Historical Society, Preston Moses, P.O. Box 1206, Chatham, Virginia 24531. (NOTE: We have to keep articles comparatively brief because "The Packet" is limited to 16 pages due to cost of postage.)

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#### DID YOU KNOW?

The Pittsylvania Historical Society was organized by the William Pitt Chapter DAR and held its first official meeting the third Monday March 1973 with Col. Charles E.H. Jones elected as the first president.

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#### FOUR COURTHOUSES, EIGHT JAILS

Pittsylvania County has had four different county courthouses and has eight different jails in its history.

At the turn of the century (1900), Chatham had 23 saloons including places where "spirits" could be legally purchased at the county seat.

### SOME FACTS ABOUT PHS MEMBERSHIP

The Pittsylvania Historical Society has 436 members listed on its rolls, but this includes 115 who have not yet paid the 1991-92 dues.

It is somewhat surprising to note that a large percent of the Society's members are persons who reside outside of this county. They are for the most part, members who have some connections with the Southside section of Virginia and choose to keep in touch through the PHS. We of the Society here in the county welcome all of "Yo-All."

Here are some interesting facts about the membership: The PHS has members in 43 cities, town and communities in Virginia, with largest number of Virginia members in Chatham (98), Danville (32), Callands and Roanoke.

The membership outside of Virginia is represented in 36 different states in the USA, with the largest numbers in California, Texas, Florida, Tennessee, Missouri and Kentucky.

We welcome the newest PHS members who have joined this fall including Mr. and Mrs. L. Rici Stroud of Danville; Troy Clement of Vernon, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Don Tyler of Gretna; Betty Waison of Chatham; Thomas M. Boaz of Berwyn, Pa.; Ms. Barbara F. Bonham of Cupertino, Cal.; Mrs. W. Conrad Stone of Roanoke; Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Scott of Chatham; Ms. Rosa Lee R. Calame of Austin, Texas; Howard Vallance Jones Jr. of Cedar Falls, Iowa; Ms. April Miller of Virginia Beach; Tyson Ashlock of Albuquerque, N.M., Mrs. Patsy Willburn of Modesto, Cal.

Signed: Jeanette Brown, PHS membership secretary, Route 1, Box 8K6, Chatham, Va. 24531 - Phone (804)-432-2607.

### WHAT A DIFFERENCE 63 YEARS MAKES!

"Pittsylvania County has always been interested in education from the earliest history." That statement was made 63 years ago by Pittsylvania School Superintendent Fletcher Watson and was quoted in an article about the county public schools published in the Danville Register on October 28, 1928.

(The same statement would very likely be made by Superintendent Robert Reeca today in 1991.)

But there is a marked difference in the statistics of the county schools of 1928 when compared with the 1991 figures as listed below:

In 1928 there were 192 public schools in Pittsylvania County including nine high schools and two junior high schools. Today there are 21 county schools including four high schools and five middle schools.

Sixty-three years ago the county schools had an enrollment of 18,735 pupils (including 12,587 whites and 6,148 blacks.) Today the integrated schools' total enrollment is 9,627.

The schools had 560 teachers in 1928, whereas today there are 701 teachers.

The total cost of operating the county schools amounted to \$475,791 in 1928 compared to the school budget of \$38 million for 1991.

Pittsylvania County population in 1928 was 56,493, and today the county population is 55,655 (after 1988 annexation).

## Genealogical Treasures At the Clerk's Office

By HERMAN MELTON and HENRY MITCHELL

Several readers responded to a brief article in the August 1991 **Packet** about the valuable documents and services available to genealogical researchers in the office of Pittsylvania County's Clerk of Court, located on the first floor of the courthouse in Chatham. This article is a follow-up, enumerating some of the most important records found at the Clerk's Office and was compiled with the assistance of Clerk's Office staff member Ann Roach. This list includes materials most used by genealogical researchers, but is by no means a complete inventory of the Clerk's Office contents.

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**Marriage Register** (an index to marriage licenses and ministers' returns), 1767 to present, indexed by males and females, by first letter of last name and by date. For entries prior to 1913, licenses or ministers' returns must be copied by the staff of the clerk's office (the originals are not available to the public.)

**General Index to Wills**, 1767 to present, indexed by last name of the deceased.

**Will Books**, 1767 to present.

**General Index to Accounts, Current Inventories, Etc.** (accounts of estate executors), 1767 to present, indexed by last name of the deceased.

**Accounts, Current Inventories, Etc.**, 1767 to present.

**Grantor and Grantee Indexes to Deeds, Trust Deed, Liens**, 1767-1889 (and to present in a different area of the Clerk's Office,) indexed by grantor or grantee's last name.

**Deed Books**, 1767-1889 (and to present in a different area of the Clerk's Office.)

**Pittsylvania County Land Books** (tax records), 1793 to present, more than 200 volumes.

**Claims for Supplies, Revolutionary War Soldiers**, Pittsylvania County, 1782.

(Partial) **Master Roll**, 1861-1865, Pittsylvania County.

**Book of Estrays**, 1773-1782.

**Old Surveys, Books 1 and 2**, 1746-1796.

**Entry Record Book** 1737-1770 (one volume).

**Causes, Issues and Proceedings** 1774-1805 (one volume).

**Register of Free Negroes**, 1807-1865.

**Militia Bonds** 1860-1861, Pittsylvania County.

**Vestry Book**, Camden Parish, 1787-1852.

**Tithables**, 1767-1785, and **Miscellaneous Lists** 1782-1784-1785.

**Veterans Records**, Revolutionary War.

**Plaintiffs and Defendants Index to Court Orders**, 1767-1904 (and to present in a different area of the Clerk's Office), indexed by first letter of plaintiffs' and defendants' last names.

**Plaintiffs and Defendants Index to Common Law Orders**, 1831-1936.

**Register of Deaths**, 1853-1896 and **some War Between the**

States (partial -- not all deaths were reported to the Clerk of Court.)

**Indexes to Register of Deaths, 1853-1896**, 3 vols., compiled by Mrs. Lonnie Crosby: (1) Whites; (2) Slaves; (3) Emancipated blacks.

(Partial) **Register of Births, 1853-1896**.

**Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Births 1853-1896**, partial register compiled and alphabetized by Mike K. Williams and Mary L. Boisseau.

**1880 Census Index of Pittsylvania County and Danville**, compiled by the Virginia - North Carolina Piedmont Genealogical Society. This is an alphabetized listing of "heads of dwelling."

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Visiting hours for those wishing to research records in the Clerk's Office are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for public holidays. A visit to this well-organized and hospitable records repository is certain to be a rewarding experience.

For those who wish to avail themselves of the information found at the Clerk's Office without a personal visit, the address of the Clerk of Court is H.F. Haymore, Clerk of Circuit Court, Pittsylvania County, P.O. Drawer 31, Chatham VA 24531. The Clerk of Court will honor specific requests for copying documents (an item or two, no research involved, if book and page number are supplied by the requester.) Marriage certificates are provided (certified copies) at \$3 each; all other copies are provided at \$1 per page. (An individual making copies without staff assistance may use the copier in the office for 25 cents per page).

If an individual lacks specific book and page number information, and cannot go to the Clerk's Office in person to do the research needed, it is suggested by the Clerk of Court that one of the following local professional genealogists be contacted:

Mary L. Boisseau, 469 Brightwood Drive, Danville, VA 24540 (804-799-0327 after 5 p.m.);

Mrs. Lonnie Crosby, Route 4, Box 289, Gretna, VA 24557 (804-656-2109);

Steven B. Harris, Route 4, Box 341, Gretna, VA 24557 (804-656-1814 after 5 p.m.).

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### OLDEST ACTIVE ORGANIZATION

The Pittsylvania Masonic Lodge No. 24 at Chatham is the oldest organization (still active) in the county seat.

Organized August 4, 1788, the first meeting of the Masonic Lodge was held in the county courthouse.

Edmund Randolph Esq., Grandmaster of Masons of Virginia, and at the time the Governor of Virginia, came here to present the charter on September 15, 1788.

Haymes Morgan was elected first worshipful master, Daniel Lowell, Sr. Warden, John Markham, Jr. Warden, and George Shelton, Secretary.

Later, the Lodge's minutes recorded that the name of Chatham was changed to Competition and had this interesting comment in the minutes:

*"Competition, so named because of the divided groups in the town....When the devil tempted Jesus on the mountain, he promised him the rule of the whole world - except Competition, and Satan reserved that place for himself!"*

# Giles Mill:

## Mecca of the frying pan

Some Confederate soldiers had not yet completed the long trek home from Appomattox when James Graves petitioned the Pittsylvania County Court for permission to erect a grist mill on Frying Pan Creek near the Village of Toshes in August of 1865. In so doing, Graves built the first grist mill in Pittsylvania County after the Civil War.

Ruins of the mill remain in a classically beautiful spot near the confluence of Figg River and Frying Pan Creek. The land on which Graves erected his mill had many prominent owners including the Ward and Graves families.

One early owner was the wealthy Scottish patriot, David Ross, who built a grist mill earlier a half mile downstream at the mouth of the creek in 1769.

Its ruins are also extinct. Ross was an enterprising businessman, and Governor Thomas Jefferson appointed him Commercial Agent during the Revolution because of his ability to procure supplies for the besieged Continental Army.

Ross further distinguished himself by becoming one of the county's most generous donors to the cause. He became overextended before the War of 1812 and his estate was sold to pay his debts upon his death in 1817. The land was purchased by the Wards who also operated a mill on the site of the one constructed earlier by David Ross. The Wards sold the land to the Graves family ca. 1840. Graves Mill became Giles Mill after marriage of Len Giles to Ethel Graves, who inherited the mill from her father ca. 1900.

Frying Pan Creek is subject to violent floods and the raging waters of the St. Francis Day freshet of 1912 wiped out the dam at Len Giles' flourishing grist mill. He and his partner, C.S. Hubbard, contracted with Thomas Haymes of Chatham immediately afterwards to rebuild the 15 foot high rock structure. The dam impounded a half mile long lake that became a Pittsylvania County vacation mecca during the Great Depression. Many county natives remember renting one of the primitive cabins built on the ridge above the lake during the summertime. Boy and Girl Scouts camped on its shores frequently also.

The mill supplied flour and corn meal for the region for many years and many natives can remember when the creaking old wheel was grinding away. Len Giles departed this life during the early 1930's and his remains became the first to be



COURTESY NANCY PHILLIPSON  
GILES MILL ON FRYING PAN CREEK  
ca. 1921

*The impressive ruins, which include a rock dam, an old water wheel and a millstone may be viewed at a point off County Route 603 near Toshes.*



interred in Hollywood Baptist Church cemetery west of Chatham.

The mill pond became a victim of industrial development when waste from the Bennett, Ramsey and Berger barytes mines (operated by the Barium Corporation of America) upstream silted up the impoundment. Ethel Graves Giles successfully brought suit for damages in the County Court in 1936.

Her troubles were only beginning however. Water-powered grist mills became obsolete due to technological advancements all over the U.S. But the real COUP DE GRACE came during a vicious flood on September 18, 1944. The mill and the upper part of the dam were destroyed. This was the same flood that wiped out Owens Mill, Moses Mill and Ray Mill. Sadly, none of them were rebuilt.

*(Note: This article was excerpted from PITTSYLVANIA'S NINETEENTH CENTURY GRIST MILLS by Herman Melton. His book is scheduled to be released Dec. 1, 1991. Those interested may order it from the author for \$25 postpaid by writing to Herman Melton, Route 5, Box 58, Chatham, Va. 24531.)*

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### THANKS, THANKS, THANKS

- To Mary Jane Vaden of Roanoke who contributed a copy of the "A Ward Family History" to the PHS book collection;

- To Charles Hawkins (State Senator Elect) for giving the replica of the Pittsylvania County silk flag flown by the 2nd battalion, 42nd Regiment. It is now displayed in the PHS meeting room;

- To Otis Hawker, Director of Pittsylvania County Public Works, who was instrumental in getting the much needed gravel walkway to the entrances of the PHS 1813 Clerks Office;

- To Mrs. Gertrude Jones for installing the attractive exterior light with iron post on the front lawn of the 1813 Clerk's Office;

- To Mrs. Samuel Hairston and the Chatham Garden Club for their attention and care of the historical Clerk's Office at Callands;

- To Virginia Chapin for the PHS historical t-shirts for the Callands Potpourri;

- To Perry Mitchell who gave personal attention to the historical site at Callands.

- To Sovran Bank and Phyllis East for the raffle tickets for the PHS quilt give away on December 7;

- And to you - the 321 members - for paying your 1991-1992 dues on time.

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### HUNDRED YEARS AGO

In these days when state lotteries have prizes that run up to \$20 million - and even over a \$100 million - just 100 years ago in 1890, the Louisiana State Lottery advertised an unheard of mammoth lottery drawing for a grand prize of \$300,000.

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### MEMBER WRITES

"Although I'm a long way from Pittsylvania County, it seems like home. The PHS has been so helpful to keep me in touch! Almost all of my mother's family-lines are from there."

Signed: Eileen Vela, 268 Aragon, Los Alamos, N.M. 87544.

# Barns - Pride of the Farmers

BY NEIL PAYNE

The barn on a Pennsylvania farm often was larger and more elegant than the home of the farmer who owned it.

Many reasons may be cited for the difference. The homes on many farms were the handiwork of the owners, whereas the barn/stable included the skills of a number of neighbors who had gathered one day for a "barn raising."

Materials for raising a barn usually were right at hand.

Before the day picked for the event, logs and shingles had been procured from adjoining forested lands. Nails (if available) or wooden pegs were on hand for the builders.

Bright and early the skilled and semi-skilled workers gathered for a long day of heavy labor. An experienced individual took charge of the overall operation and assigned tasks in keeping with the aptitudes of the volunteers.

Within the day the host of the builders became the owner of a six or eight stall stable with ample storage for hay and grain overhead. With good fortune the structure would house the animals of the farmer for a half-century or more and stand as an object of pride for all to see.



## INDIGENOUS FOODS

BY PATRICIA MITCHELL

Indians in the New World taught early settlers about edible native American plants such as corn, squash, pumpkin, Jerusalem artichoke, and varieties of beans not grown in Europe. Turkey, venison, wild rice, cranberries, blueberries, Concord grapes, maple syrup, black walnuts, pecans and hickory nuts were also novel taste experiences for the Europeans. Sunflowers provided edible seeds.

Plants in Central and South America yielded peppers, sweet potatoes, pineapples, cassavas, papayas, peanuts, avocado and cocoa. From Mexico came vanilla, and Jamaica offered allspice. Even white potatoes and tomatoes originated in South America.

In the creation of recipes the New World produced Brunswick Stew, Philadelphia Pepper Pot, and eventually creme Vichyssoise glaze. Potato chips, hamburgers, hot dogs on buns, peanut butter, and Waldorf salad are American inventions, as are Swiss steak, Russian dressing, chow mein, chop suey, and cioppino. The Pennsylvania Dutch (German) people here first prepared apple pandowdy, corn pie, shoo-fly pie, and wilted lettuce salad. And not so long ago Du Pont chemist Earl S. Tupper invented Tupperware, handy for storing tasty foods.

## Post Office established at Pittsylvania Court House 1794

A post office was first established at the Pittsylvania County Court House (Chatham) in 1794. Records show that U.S. Postmaster General Timothy Pickens wrote to William Clark, Esq., August 21, 1794, requesting that he "choose a suitable person to be postmaster at Pittsylvania Court House."

Thomas Murdock was chosen to be the first postmaster here, and he served six years.

Records show that the Postmaster for Pittsylvania Court House received compensation of \$69.46 for the year 1816 (approximately \$5.80 a month). This strongly indicates the postmaster carried on the postal service in connection with some other business such as a store.

The rates of postage for letters in effect at the Pittsylvania Court House Post Office when established were: single letter not exceeding 30 miles, six cents, over 30 miles, not exceeding 60 miles, eight cents, over 60 miles, up to 100 miles, 10 cents.

Then for each additional 50 miles, the postage jumped two cents. Letters going over 450 miles cost 25 cents. There were double rates for double letters.

Packages were charged by weight based on one ounce avoirdupois at the rate of four single letters for each ounce and in that proportion for greater weight.

Letters mailed at the county post office went by "Pony Express." For instance, a letter to Richmond would go first to the Halifax Court House, sorted and routed to Charlotte Court House, and then routed to Prince Edward before getting to Richmond.

Rural free delivery was not established in Pittsylvania County until 1899. Before then people had to go to the post offices which were set up in stores in various communities in the county to get the mail.

Persons who served as postmasters at the Pittsylvania County Court House (or Competition, Chatham, etc.) are listed in chronological order: Thomas Murdock, James Hinton, Samuel Lovett, Josiah Ferguson, Francis Dabney, Thomas Rawlins, William Rawlins, David H. Clark, Jno A. Clark, Davery Haley, Coleman D. Bennett, Milton L. Lovell, James Barton.

Ichabod Q. Watson, Daniel C. Ragsdale, James K. Blair, Jesse T. Carter, James P. Johnson, Samuel P. Motley, John E. Mattox, John W. Jones, W. W. White, John W. Cole, John McKinsey, William B. Hurt.

A. J. Ramsey, James Carter, Mollie E. Goolsby, James S. Haile, Grief C. Giles, Leon H. Law, Judson Patterson, Homer Amos, James Payne and Bill Batterman (present postmaster).

Incidentally, the name of the post office here was officially changed to Chatham in 1876.

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### ARE YOU IN DEBT?

A majority of the people of this country are in debt.

Likely they are making payments on their home or automobile or furniture or appliances, etc. Of course they may still owe their doctor, or borrowed to pay for their child's education.

But don't feel badly about being in debt. Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, and the third President of the USA died in debt, owing \$100,000...and he is remembered as a great American!

# From Estray Book 1777

Robert FOSTER

Taken up on Sycamore Creek a small bright Bay mare with a small Star in her forehead. Black main and Tail black foot Locks, not Dockt nor Branded about Two years old last Spring, about four feet four inches and an half high She is a Trotter

Robert Foster

We the Subscribers being first Sworn before Crispin SHELTON a Justice of the peace have appraised above Stray mare to L7 0 0 Current money

John Payne Abraham MOTTLEY Beverly SHELTON

George HUMPHREYS

The Following Stray was brought before me this day by GEORGE HUMPHREYS (VI2) a bay mare about four feet Seven inches high a Star in her forehead a middle Sized Bell Branded on near Shoulder thus  $\frac{1}{2}$  (V) K on off Shoulder and each Buttock thus R 14 Fifteen years old. Certified under my hand this 18th June 1777

Robt PAYNE

We the Subscribers have Valued and appraised above Mare to L8 0 0. Given under our hands this 18th June 1777

James Dix John WYNNE Samuel BYNUM

Arthur FULLER

This Day Arthur FULLER brought before me one Dark Bay mare four feet three inches high. Branded on near Shoulder  $\frac{1}{2}$  K Seven years old, a small Star in her forehead one off hind feet white, some Saddle Spots, Trots and paces. Given under my hand this 15th Day of August 1777

Daniel HANKINS

We the Subscribers do appraise above Stray mare to L11 0 0 Current money Given our hands this 15th Day of August 1777

John WARREN Zachariah FULLER

James BREWER

Taken up by James BREWER & brought before me a Bright Bay Horse four feet five or Six inches high five or Six years old, Branded on near Buttock thus (A) Star in forehead and a white Streak bearing to the right, he has some white Hairs in his main and Tail, some white hairs Just above his near hind hoof, a Natural pacer. Given under my hand this 12th Day of August 1777.

James ROBERTS

We the Subscribers being first Sworn before a Justice of the peace appraise above Stray Horse to L15 0 0 Current Money Given under our hand this 12th Day of Aug. 1777.

William ROBERTS Abraham AARON James DEVIN

Thomas DILLARD

Taken up by the Subscriber living on Strait Stone Creek one Bright Bay mare about two years old last Spring along and narrow white her forehead, both hind feet and above half the Legs white, hip shotten, Dockt, but not Branded as can be perceived.



Thomas DILLARD August 26th 1777

We the Subscribers Sworn before Benjamin LANKFORD a Justice of the peace do appraise above Stray mare to L8 0 0 Current Money.

Will Todd William COLLINS John BALLINGER

## From Estray Book - 1777

### Robert WALTERS

I certify the following Stray was brought before me a Justice of the peace (to wit) a Sorrel mare about 16-years-old four feet four inches high, a Star in her forehead, Snip on her nose, Branded on near Shoulder  and on Near Buttock  had on a Large Bell. Valued & appraised to L5.10.0 Taken up by Robert WALTERS on Lower Double Creek of Dan River the 26th July 1777.  
Geo Carter Augt. 12th 1777

### Charles FARRIS

Taken up by the Subscriber living on Fly Blo Creek One Brindle Stear two years old last Spring marked with a Crop in right Ear & under keel in left a Short tail & Branded on right jaw. Charles FARRIS Sennr. Sepr. 8th 1777  
We the Subscribers first Sworn before William TODD a Justice of the peace do appraise above Stear to L0.37.6 Current Money.

R. FARGUSON James WADE Dd. HUNT


### Crispen SHELTON

Taken up on Banister River a brown pided Stear with a Star in his forehead. Large horns about four years old last Spring Marked with Crop & Slit in his right ear and under keel in left. Crispen SHELTON

We the subscribers have appraised above mentioned Stray Stear to L4.10.0 Current Money of Virginia. Published Pittsylvania Sepr 20th 1777

Edmund PAYNE William JONES Allen ADAMS

### Robt. MARTIN

Taken up by the subscriber near Banister River where DIX's rode crosses, about the Last of May or first of June two Stears about three or four years old, the one a Brinded Stear a white face Back & Belly marked two Crops two under keels the other a read & white pided marked two Crops & and two under keels & Branded on side thus  Robert MARTIN

We the subscribers have valued as follows - the Brinded Stear to L2.5.0 the read pided Stear to L3.0.0. Given under my hand this 24th Day of September 1777.

Allen ADAMS Edmd. FITZGERALD Edmd. PAYNE

### Robert FARGUSON

Taken up by the Subscriber Living on Flyblo Creek a Black Horse with hanging main & Switch Tail, has a blaze face & his right Eye is Glassey, some Saddle Spotts & a Lump on his Back, both hind feet white & paces naturally about Seven years old Last Spring & about four feet six Inches high. Octr.23d 1777

Robt. FARGUSON

We the Subscribers Sworn before William TODD a Justice of the peace do appraise above Stray horse to L10.0.0 Current Money.

Joshua STONE Jno. BUCKLEY Jno. VAUGHAN

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Contributed by Lucille Pnyue, former co-editor of "The Quill Pen."



## Queries

(Free to members to allow readers to aid others with similar family interests.)

**NEED INFO ON HENRY H. TURNER**, married in Pittsylvania County 1828, **MOURNING R. PITTS**, born 1809, daughter **LUCY**, born in Va. 1830, and son **RICHARD**, born in Cassville, Ga. 1834. Write **ROSA LEE R. CALAME**, 2017 Singing Brook, Austin, Texas 78722-3448.

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**NEED INFORMATION** about **DILLARD** family, also the family of **THOMAS VAUGHAN**, died in Pittsylvania 1787-1788. Also family of **PHILEMON GREGORY**, died apparently c. 1759, and his son **WILLIAM**. Write: **DR. HOWARD V. JONES**, 18 Winter Ridge Dr., Cedar Falls, IA 50618.

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**WANTS ANSWER:** I have two questions: 1 - Where did the **JACOB BERGER** estate get its name "**CLIFTON**?" 2 - Who now owns "**CLIFTON**?" Is it still in the **BERGER** family. Please write to **EILEEN VELA**, 268, Aragon, Las Alamos, N.M. 87544. Phone (505) 672-1765.

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**SEEKS INFORMATION** about **PLEASANT WALKER**, married **MARTHA SAUNDERS** in Pittsylvania County January 27, 1835 and son **WARD** (b. 1836) and daughter **LOUISA**, (b. 1838). Moved to Tennessee around 1850. Write: **JOHN E. WALKER**, 360 Burr Oak Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

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**SEARCHING MIDKIFFS** of Virginia. My great-grandfather was **JOHN MIDKIFF** born Halifax County 1805. Also **JAMES MIDKIFF**. Is there anyone searching this name? I'll answer all letters. Signed: **LOIS MIDKIFF YOSHIOKA**, 12914 Blue Bonnet Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375.

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**INFORMATION SOUGHT** on **VADEN, ADAMS, MEADOWS, ALLEN**. Daughters of **SILVESTER A. VADEN** and wife **MARY CHATTEN**, were Phoebe M. Allison Adams 1832, Winifred M. Stokely Adams 1825, Letitia M. James Adams 1834, Leviecie M. James Allen 1831, Sarah M. Henry Meadows 1837, married in Pittsylvania County and had descendants there. Would like to hear from anyone sharing information. Write **MARY JANE VADEN**, 2438 Memorial Ave. S.W., Roanoke, Va. 24015 Phone (703) 345-1748.

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**MURPHY, TIFFIN, HUTCHISON**. Seek information on **JOHN B. MURPHY** (Murphey), son of William D. Murphy and Abigail (Cahill) M. 1822 first to Lucy Tiffin. Had two sons William R. Murphy (b. 1823) and Thomas (b. 1824). Lucy died 1839, John then married Susan Hutchason, daughter of Susan (Burton) and John Hutchason. Also seek info on **GEORGE H. BOOKER** (b. 1805) married to Eleanor Murphy (b. 1806) on Sept. 27, 1830. Write: **PATRICIA LEE MURPHY**, 320 W. Lakeview St., Apt. 111, Orlando, FL 32804 Ph (407) 648-9005.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THANKS!

"My thanks to the nice people who responded to my request for information on the Hamlett and Overton families of Pittsylvania in the late 1700's. I'm enclosing a donation to the Society."

Signed: Pansey Lea Willburn, 2305 Langford Ave., Modesto, Cal. 95350

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- House tours, entertainment at each of four homes on the tour

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- Historical impersonators in colonial costumes greet visitors

- Christmas story in stars at Planetarium in education cultural center

- Lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church

- Arts and Crafts at Chatham Baptist SS basement room.

- Antiques at Moschier house next to the Baptist Church

- 18th Century horseback riders

- Wyane's Fall Rifleman on street

- Storytelling at PEDO reception room

- Traditional lantern lighting ceremony at courthouse

- Children's choir from W. M. Methodist Church

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Garland Turner, Chairman

Frances Hurt, Vice-Chairman

PHS recommends this is a good time to visit Chatham for a weekend.

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